

I. IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace specification paragraph 2, spanning pages 1 and 2, with the following paragraph:

This application is related to ~~claims the benefit of~~ pending U.S. patent application Ser. No. 08/999,766, filed Jul. 23, 1997, entitled "Steganographic Method and Device"; pending U.S. patent application Ser. No. 08/772,222, filed Dec. 20, 1996, entitled "Z-Transform Implementation of Digital Watermarks"; pending U.S. patent application Ser. No. 09/456,319, filed Dec. 8, 1999, entitled "Transform Implementation of Digital Watermarks"; pending U.S. patent application Ser. No. 08/674,726, filed Jul. 2, 1996, entitled "Exchange Mechanisms for Digital Information Packages with Bandwidth Securitization, Multichannel Digital Watermarks, and Key Management"; pending U.S. patent application Ser. No. 09/545,589, filed Apr. 7, 2000, entitled "Method and System for Digital Watermarking"; pending U.S. patent application Ser. No. 09/046,627, filed Mar. 24, 1998, entitled "Method for Combining Transfer Function with Predetermined Key Creation"; pending U.S. patent application Ser. No. 09/053,628, filed Apr. 2, 1998, entitled "Multiple Transform Utilization and Application for Secure Digital Watermarking"; pending U.S. patent application Ser. No. 09/281,279, filed Mar. 30, 1999, entitled "Optimization Methods for the Insertion, Protection, and Detection . . . "; U.S. patent application Ser. No. 09/594,719, filed Jun. 16, 2000, entitled "Utilizing Data Reduction in Steganographic and Cryptographic Systems" (which is a continuation-in-part of PCT application No. PCT/US00/06522, filed Mar. 14, 2000, which PCT application claimed priority to U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/125,990, filed Mar. 24, 1999); now abandoned U.S. Application No. 60/169,274, filed Dec. 7, 1999, entitled "Systems, Methods And Devices For Trusted Transactions"; and PCT Application No. PCT/US00/21189, filed Aug. 4, 2000 (which claims priority to U.S. Patent Application Ser. No. 60/147,134, filed Aug. 4, 1999, and to U.S. Patent Application No. 60/213,489, filed Jun. 23, 2000, both of which are entitled, "A Secure Personal Content Server"). The previously identified patents and/or patent applications are hereby incorporated by reference, in their entireties.